

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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TAGS: PFOR, UY, CB, UR

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, USSR-KHMER REPUBLIC

REF: MONTEVIDEO 2130

1. DURING SIHANOUK'S ERA, CAMBODIA AND USSR ENJOYED CLOSE RELATIONS AND SIHANOUK ACCEPTED SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF SOV MILITARY; ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ASSISTANCE. UPON SIHANOUK'S DEPOSITION IN 1970, SOVS SENT AMBASSADOR ON "VACATION". FIFTY MAN EMBASSY IN PHNOM PENH WAS PROGRESSIVELY HEADED BY MORE AND MORE JUNIOR OFFICERS. SOV BLOC ALSO CONTINUED REPRESENTATION IN PP (POLAND, CHZECH., BULGARIA AND EAST GERMANY PRINCIPALLY) UNTIL FOLLOWING PRESSURES AT ALGIERS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER 1973, SOVS FELT CONSTRAINED TO "RECOGNIZE" SIHANOUK AND HIS EXILE REGIME IN CHINA WITH LAME EXCUSE THAT IT HAD NEVER WITHDRAWN RECOGNITION.

2. SOVS LEFT SMALL CARETAKER STAFF IN PHNOM PENH IN LATE 1973 WHICH IS NOW UP TO 8 - 10 PERSONS WITH SENIOR OFFICIAL THE TASS REPRESENTATIVE. SOVS PERMIT BOTH CAMBODIAN SIDES TO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES IN MOSCOW. THROUGH THIS CURIOUS ARRANGEMENT, SOVS REMAIN ON CAMBODIAN SCENE BUT IN TERMS OF PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF KHMER CREDENTIALS SITUATION IN UNGA, SOVS ARE VOTING FOR SIHANOUK, GIVING HIM EIGHT CRUCIAL VOTES. KISSINGER

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